

*The Fairfax County*  
**Human Services System**

**Trends and Emerging Needs**  
**November 16, 2015**

*Working Together To Achieve Better Results*





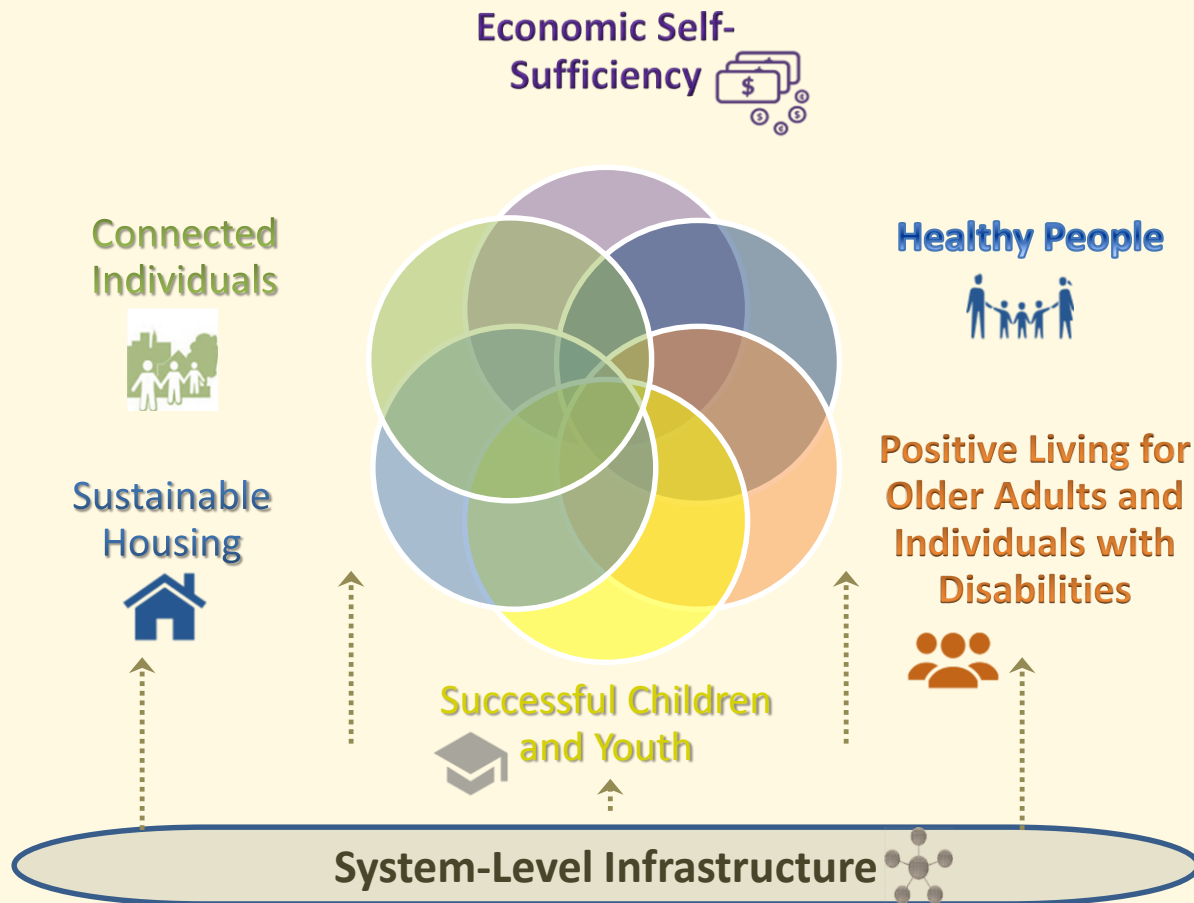
# The Fairfax County Human Services System

## Human Services Mission

We create opportunities for individuals and families to be safe, be healthy, and realize their potential.

## Human Services Focus Areas – Results We Seek

As a human services system, we strive to **achieve results in six overarching focus areas**. We also recognize system infrastructure has a direct impact on the effectiveness of the human services system.





## **Introduction**

- **This information is intended to inform service providers, community leaders and other stakeholders.**
- **Trends and emerging needs impacting human services and organized by six human services focus areas:**
  - **Sustainable Housing**
  - **Economic Self-Sufficiency**
  - **Healthy People**
  - **Connected Individuals**
  - **Positive Living for Older Adults & Individuals with Disabilities**
  - **Successful Children & Youth**



## Recurring Themes Across Human Services

- **Lack of Affordable Housing options** especially for **low-wage earners** and among **very low-income** Fairfax County **residents with disabilities and older adults**.
- Emergent **behavioral health issues** (mental illness, risk for suicide) **faced by all ages – youth, adults, and older adults**.
- **Increasing poverty among children** with more representation in food assistance programs. The number of those who are **economically disadvantaged** is **increasing for both children and youth**. Additionally, **more two-adult working households** are **living at 125% of the federal poverty level**. Individuals in need of **public assistance (SNAP, Medicaid)** is **on the rise**.



## Recurring Themes Across Human Services

- **Increasingly diverse population for which English is a second language could impede the ability of these residents to be economically successful and socially integrated within the county. Limited English Proficiency among FCPS students is increasing. Non-budgeted associated costs for mandated language interpretation and translation services has continued to increase across the system, both in contracted and agency delivered services.**



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### *Highlights for* **SUSTAINABLE HOUSING:**

- In the last decade, the **median market value of owned homes** in the county **increased by 27% (\$447,541)**.
- The **average monthly rent paid** for a unit in a rental housing complex **increased by 36%** (from \$1,202 to \$1,640) during the last decade.
- The 2014 American Community Survey **estimates 44% of renter households in the county are “housing cost burdened”** (spending 30% or more of household income on housing).



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### *Highlights for SUSTAINABLE HOUSING:*

- Fairfax County's 2015 Point-in-Time Count of persons experiencing homelessness revealed **1,204 literally homeless people** in the **Fairfax-Falls Church area**. The **homeless population decreased by 34%** from 2008 (1835) to 2015 (1204).
  - Of the **single individuals (488)** counted in 2015, **55% suffered from serious mental illness and/or substance abuse**.
  - People in **families accounted for 59% of all homeless persons counted**, of which **36% were children under the age of 18**.
- The **number of people exiting emergency shelter to permanent destinations increased 183%** from 342 in 2010 to 970 in FY 2014.



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### *Highlights for* **ECONOMIC SELF-SUFFICIENCY:**

- **Poverty has increased in the county.** Specifically:
  - the number of **Fairfax County residents in poverty is approximately 74,000;**
  - **child poverty rates** have remained **consistently higher than that for the population overall.** In 2014 alone, **over 23,000 children (almost 9%)** were **living below the poverty rate;** and
  - the number of **families who are slightly above the poverty rate** (125% of poverty) **grew in the past year** by approximately 9,600 individuals, after falling the previous two years.
- As poverty has increased, so has the number of individuals applying for public assistance. **Food assistance has increased sharply including enrollment in SNAP and Free and Reduced-Price Meals.**
- **English language proficiency** continues to be important and is linked to economic success - **among individuals in poverty, nearly 60% speak a language other than English at home.**
- **Housing** continues to be **difficult to afford** in the county **for low-wage earners.**





## *Highlights for* **HEALTHY PEOPLE:**

- In 2014, an estimated **30,030 adults were without health insurance** between the ages of 18 to 64 living in households with incomes under 138% of the poverty level. These households fall into the “**coverage gap**”, meaning that they are currently uninsured.
- There is a **severe shortage of psychiatric beds across the Commonwealth, and Northern Virginia has, per capita, the lowest psychiatric bed capacity, both public and private.** Northern Virginia also has the fewest crisis stabilization beds per capita.



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### *Highlights for* **HEALTHY PEOPLE:**

- Significant costs are associated with preventable illnesses and conditions. Statistics for Fairfax County **estimate 11% of adults smoke and 22% are obese.**
- An increasing number of victims of domestic violence are being served by county programs and services. As an example, **the number of victims served by the Domestic Violence Action Center increased 246% from FY 2012 to FY 2014.**
- **Ongoing public health threats posed by emerging and re-emerging communicable diseases** are exemplified by the recent Ebola outbreak in West Africa which **has required a coordinated local response effort to monitor travelers.**



## *Highlights for* **CONNECTED INDIVIDUALS:**

- In FY 2014, various human services programs engaged nearly **23,700 volunteers** who provided **approximately 245,800 volunteer hours** valued at **\$5.8 million**.
- The majority of youth survey respondents in Fairfax County Public Schools engage in community service activities. According to the **2014-15 Fairfax County Youth Survey**, **50% of respondents participated in some type of community service activities once a month or more**. Additionally, **64% of the respondents indicated they spend at least one hour per week helping friends or neighbors**.



## *Highlights for* **CONNECTED INDIVIDUALS:**

- **Approximately 403,000 people age five and older spoke a language other than English at home in 2014 in Fairfax County; an increase of 49% from the year 2000. Seven percent are linguistically isolated, meaning that no one over the age of 14 speaks English only or speaks English very well.**
- **Transportation barriers can increase social isolation. A 2013 survey of older adults and individuals with disabilities in Fairfax County noted that approximately 1 out of every 4 survey respondents was unable to get to a destination in the past month due to a lack of accessible and affordable transportation in the county.**



## **Highlights for POSITIVE LIVING FOR OLDER ADULTS & INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES:**

- The proportion of the Fairfax County population comprised of **adults aged 65 and over is increasing. In 2014, approximately 12% of the population was comprised of older adults.** By 2020, older adults are expected to comprise 14% of the population.
- Approximately **one out of every four older adults (65+) in Fairfax County has a disability.** The number of older adults with a disability has increased.
- **Reports of suspected abuse, neglect, or exploitation involving older adults or incapacitated adults under age 60 increased 21% from FY 2008 to FY 2014.**



## *Highlights for* **POSITIVE LIVING FOR OLDER ADULTS & INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES:**

- Among **very low-income Fairfax County residents with disabilities and very low-income older adults**, an **estimated 17,600 households have unmet housing needs**.
- Fairfax County **households with a disabled member(s) have higher percentages of housing problems** (e.g., incomplete kitchens and/or plumbing facilities; high housing costs) compared to households without a disabled member.



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### *Highlights for* **SUCCESSFUL CHILDREN & YOUTH:**

- **Fairfax County remains above the national average for depressive symptoms.** 2014 Youth Survey findings indicate **32% of students reported depressive symptoms in the past year.** Over half of Hispanic girls reported depressive symptoms.
- **Children in the county are increasingly represented in food assistance programs – 28% of Fairfax County Public School students were eligible for free or reduced-priced meals during the 2014-2015 school year (51,968).**
- **Enrollment in Head Start/Early Head Start programs in the county has continued to increase.**
- **In fall 2014, almost 16% of kindergarteners tested in Fairfax County Public Schools did not meet reading intervention benchmarks and were referred for services.**



## *Highlights for* **SUCCESSFUL CHILDREN & YOUTH:**

- **Disparities exist in the proportion of students who graduate within four years of starting 9th grade** in the Fairfax County Public School (FCPS) system. In 2014, the **overall on-time graduation rate for FCPS was 93%**. This rate was **lower for Hispanic students (81%); Black students (91%); students who were economically disadvantaged (84%); Limited English Proficiency students (83%); and students who were homeless at any time (70%).**
- **The number of Limited English Proficiency (LEP) students** in Fairfax County Public Schools **increased by approximately 20% (7,815 students)** from 2008 to 2014 (39,620 versus 47,435 students respectively).
- In FY 2014, there was a **7% decrease in the number of calls received by the Child Protective Services (CPS) Hotline** and a 5% decrease in the number of validated CPS referrals, compared to FY 2013. This **represents a slight decrease across all abuse types - physical, neglect, sexual, and mental abuse (which includes exposure to domestic violence).**





## The Fairfax County Human Services System

### Highlights for SYSTEM-LEVEL INFRASTRUCTURE:

- The human services system is comprised of 99 lines of business, approximately 4,000 merit and 2,000 non-merit staff, 681 community, nonprofit and for-profit providers and nearly 1,100 contracts, 82 county service sites and 233 residential sites.
- Nearly one in three Human Services staff members are currently eligible for retirement. **Workforce planning and staff development** activities are critical to ensure institutional knowledge in the human services system remains strong.
- More than 20 major information systems are used across the Human Services system for reporting and data management. Aging data systems, with limited capacity to capture performance data across organizational and funding boundaries, affects management and operation of services. New investments in data analytic tools to support **Human Services system-wide service integration** efforts are underway to *sustain* current performance and *improve* both the timeliness of response and quality of services.



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### *Highlights for* **SYSTEM-LEVEL INFRASTRUCTURE:**

- State-local funding formulas for human services programs do not reflect the current cost of delivering services in Northern Virginia. Many programs have had declining or static state appropriations for multiple years – thereby **reducing in real dollars, the state's reimbursement and revenue** support for services to county residents.

# Thank You!

***Trends and Emerging Needs Presentation, November 2015 is available online at:***

- HSC web page: [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/hscouncil](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/hscouncil)

